

REPUBLICANS SEEK INVESTIGATION

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Republican leaders are quietly preparing for a major investigation of Kennedy administration handling of the Congo crisis. Signs grow that they will have at least some Democratic support. If the Democrats, who control all the committee machinery, do not go along, the Republicans will proceed on their own by means of various party organs.

The investigation will center on United States policy in the United Nations and examine the implications of U. S. support for the Afro-Asian bloc at the possible sacrifice of the U. S. position in the Western alliance.

It will seek to dramatize the apparent "double standard"

of UN military action against Moshe Tshombe in the Katanga and the lack of similar action against India for the invasion of the Portuguese Province of Goa.

The study, which will be conducted in the House by the Republican Policy Committee, also will examine the whole question of U. S. financial support for the UN and the refusal of other members, including the Soviet Union, to pay their share.

The Congo operation alone has cost the UN a total of \$160,000,000 since July, 1960. The U. S. has paid 48.42 per cent of this total, according to State Department officials, which is close to the legal limit of 50 per cent imposed by Congress. The Russians have paid nothing.

It may well be that the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee, headed by Sen. J. William Fulbright, D., Ark., will make its own investigation of the Congo affair and the future role of the UN in U. S. foreign policy. If the controlling Democrats oppose it, however, the Republican Policy Committee or some other arm of the Senate minority party will proceed on its own.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D., Conn., who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, called a news conference yesterday to renew his demand for a special Senate committee to probe U. S. policy in the Congo. Just back from a visit to Elizabethville, where he was almost set upon by irregular Katangese troops who were out to get several

Europeans, he denounced the UN military operation as "barbaric aggression."

The House Republican Policy Committee chairman is Rep. John W. Byrnes, Wis., who spoke as follows in an interview:

"We have made a terrific mess out of the Congo. Our whole attitude toward neutrals is also very definitely involved in the investigation that our Policy Committee is going to take. It is a fact that the UN is impotent to intervene to stop the Indian aggression against Goa. It is a fact that the UN is potent to intervene in the Congo. Apparently the UN is willing to intervene only if it doesn't displease the Communists and the neutrals.

"Beyond this, the whole attitude of the United States toward the UN has become a matter of top priority for examination. If the UN is going to become a tool of Africa and Asia, it is essential that we re-examine the degree to which we place our reliance on it and the degree to which we are willing to pay the bill.

"The Republican Policy Committee has avoided partisan studies on foreign policy and will continue to do so. The trend of affairs in the world now makes it essential for us to

Rep. Byrnes will ask his Policy Committee to authorize an investigation based on a series of studies by outside experts, such as universities, which would then be edited and compiled by the Policy Committee staff and issued as a formal party document. It would have no legislative standing, but it would serve as a thorough, definite source of information for all Republicans, for use both on and off the House floor.

In the Senate, Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, R., Iowa, who is being pressed to run for the vacant post of Senate Republican Policy Committee chairman, called an investigation of UN policies in the Congo, and United States support thereof, "imperative."

"We split with our traditional friends over UN military operations in the Congo," he said in an interview. "As for India and Goa, we should have made it publicly clear in advance that under no circumstances would we support military action by India for an invasion of Goa. We should have made it clear that we would re-appraise our whole assistance program to India if Prime Minister Nehru ordered an invasion. We are now in a very critical situation. I am hopeful that the Foreign Relations Committee will make a serious study of how we got into this predicament and how we should guide our UN policies in the future."

In addition to these two highly placed Republicans, sharp criticism of the Congo affair has already come from former Vice-President Nixon, Sen. Barry Goldwater, Ark., a leading prospect for the 1964 Republican Presidential nomination, Senate Republican leader Everett M. Dirksen, Ill., and others.

None of these has gone so far as to question the continuing support of the UN by the U. S. But the disgruntlement already evident over the high percentage of the Congo costs coming out of Uncle Sam's pocket, and the skepticism over the UN as "a tool" of the neutralists, seem to be a clear harbinger of the coming debate.